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Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of July 19, 2004 to July 23, 2004

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Wholesale Trade ($ Millions)	May			Canadian wholesale trade edged up 0.3% in May, the third consecutive monthly increase. Excluding the automotive sector, sales grew 0.8%. Seven of the fifteen trade groups registered increases, with the largest gains reported in apparel (+5.3%), computer and other electronic equipment (+4.4%), office and professional equipment (+2.8%), and food products (+2.6%). Leading the losses were farm products (-8.8%), motor vehicles (-2.0%), and alcohol and tobacco (-1.1%). Alberta's wholesale trade rose 0.5% in May, after remaining unchanged in April. Alberta reported the fifth strongest growth among provinces, with the largest increases coming from Prince Edward Island (+15.9%) and Newfoundland (+2.4%).
Alberta	3,832	0.5%	12.1 %	
Canada	37,394	0.3%	8.4 %	
New Motor Vehicle Sales	May			In May, new motor vehicle sales in Canada fell 3.2%, the first decline of 2004. More than 80% of the decrease was attributed to fewer sales of trucks, vans and buses, while passenger car sales were down 1.0%. The decline coincided with a 13.6% increase in the price of gasoline in May, the largest monthly hike in more than 20 years. Alberta's new motor vehicle sales were down 0.6%, following a 1.0% gain in April. The largest monthly losses occurred in Prince Edward Island (-16.7%) and New Brunswick (-9.1%). Newfoundland (5.2%) was the only province to report an increase in May.
Alberta	16,193	-0.6%	-4.3%	
Canada	133,294	-3.2%	-6.9%	
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	June			In June, the Canadian Composite leading index rose 1.1%, with nine of the ten components posting gains. The housing index reported the largest of four consecutive increases, rising 3.0% in June. Manufacturing continued its recovery, with new orders (+1.3%) and average workweek (+0.3%) both reporting increases. The only component to show a decline in June was the S&P/TSX stock price index (-0.2%).
	197.8	1.1%	9.2%	

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